



## Runnymede Deanery

Diocese of Guildford

*Addlestone, Chertsey, Egham, Egham Hythe, Englefield Green,  
Lyne and Longcross, New Haw, Ottershaw, Thorpe, Virginia Water  
St Peter's Hospital, Royal Holloway University of London*

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# Newsletter July 2020

## \*\*\*\*\*EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*

### National Deaneries Network Free Briefings

Like everything else, the Annual National Deaneries Network Conference arranged for this autumn had to be cancelled. Like everyone else, NDN moved online. And here is the good news: Whereas the annual conferences are expensive to attend and require a fair bit of travelling from Runnymede, the Briefings are available in the comfort of your own home, open to everybody and best of all, you can sign up FREE of charge!

As at the conferences, each talk is given by a notable speaker, often acknowledged experts in their fields, but the programme has been **updated to reflect the number one problem of our time: Church in the Post Covid19 Environment**. Here is the intro line for the events:

"...Many of our parishes and deaneries have risen to the challenge and found ways to continue their ministry. For many of them their creative approaches have reached more in the communities they serve and touched folk far beyond their parish or deanery, enabling them to establish innovative mission approaches and relationships.

In the post Covid-19 era we are faced with new opportunities and challenges: How do we build on these relationships and what is it that we can offer to make the most of these new opportunities? What can we do to nurture these new contacts and continue to serve and minister to our existing church communities?"

These online talks are spread out over several months with one evening broadcast at a time. Read more about it at [https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/?page\\_id=7837](https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/?page_id=7837); take a look at the scheduled talks at [https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/?page\\_id=7849](https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/?page_id=7849) and sign up at <https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/?event=deanery-briefing-moving-on-from-the-lockdown-the-theological-perspective>. Registration is open at any time – at present via the briefing on 23 September 2020. Once you have registered for free you will automatically get log-in details for each event as it comes up. The next available briefing is on 24 July 2020 but has no separate sign-up.

Usually, the NDN talks are of very high standard and useful information and ideas can be gleaned for use by the parishes, so we recommend that you sign up and listen to the talks with pen and paper at the ready to jot down ideas to bring into your church. This is also your chance to have multiple "delegates" and you may just find that different people take away different things that may prove useful...

## \*\*\*\*\*SHARING\*\*\*\*\*

### Ministry and Mission in Runnymede during the Pandemic – Part 2 – “THY KINGDOM COME”

Following much positive feedback on all the parish sharing in our last newsletter, we've once again asked our churches to share how things have progressed during the lockdown and specifically, how they have been able to participate in this year's "Thy Kingdom Come" event. Here are some replies, again in their own words and pictures:

### **St Peter's Church, Chertsey**

During lockdown the church has continued to minister to the gathered and wider community of Chertsey. We provide online worship every Sunday at 10:30am with input from eight or ten people each week, regularly engaging with 400+ people, and every month a communion service at 7pm. We broadcast via Facebook, YouTube and our own website. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9pm, Revd Tim Hillier provides a 20-minute "Hope in a Time of Fear" on Facebook live for the church and community. This regularly engages 200+ people.

We engaged in a two-week 24/7 prayer initiative with a large percentage of slots booked out during both, day and night. This was of course website-based and a "Thy Kingdom Come" event, although we organised it a little earlier. On Pentecost we had a full evening of "Prayer and Ministry in the Holy Spirit" via Zoom by using our prayer team and separate "rooms" which were well attended.

We also ran two Alpha Courses via Zoom and have just launched "The Prayer Course" by Pete Greig which will last for eight weeks. A second Prayer Course will be running on Friday nights throughout July and August. A number of our home groups continue to meet via Zoom each week and Morning Prayer continues Monday through Wednesday via Zoom as well.

Clergy and home group leaders keep in touch with the wider congregation as often as possible. We offer a published news sheet on an occasional basis. PCC has met via Zoom as have a number of prayer groups. The Ministry team has its first "Zoom Away Day" next week and we are aiming to run a week's Holiday Club via Zoom in August as well. This is at an early stage in planning.

by Revd Tim Hillier, Vicar

### **St John's Church, Egham**

This is what "Thy Kingdom Come" looked like for St John's Egham in lockdown:

We encouraged people to upload the app. We have a Facebook page, so posted the daily readings and reflections for those who didn't have the app. We reminded everyone EVERY DAY to pray for their five, to pray alongside other church family daily for any amount of time between 7-9am and 9-11pm, and we had a 24-hour prayer event (virtual prayer room) on 25-26 May. Many of our church family signed up and prayed and it was very encouraging gathering the feedback which included 'treasures forged in darkness', warnings against complacency and lots and lots of light shining in the darkness. Going forward we will be doing more 24 hour events.

I wrote a poem/reflection to encourage people to pray:

What if?

What if I don't have the words?

What if you knew that you don't even need words, that God knows your heart? ❤️

What if I can't say what I really mean?

What if you knew that God knows what you mean however it sounds to you? ❤️

What if I get distracted?

What if you knew that God understands our weaknesses? ❤️

What if I fall asleep?

What if you knew that Jesus didn't love his disciples any less when they fell asleep? ❤️

What if I feel unworthy?

What if you understood just how delighted God is with you? ❤️

What if others will be praying bigger, better prayers?

What if you knew that a prayer can be just one word, a prayer can be no words at all? ❤️

What if He doesn't hear me?

What if you knew that you are the most important person to God, that He is listening intently? ❤️

What if I get it wrong?

What if you knew that there is no 'wrong' when we talk to God, that He loves your sacrifice of time? ❤️

What if I go off topic?

What if you knew that God sets the topic, if it's on your heart then it's on His heart? ❤️

What if....?

A wonderful 10 days, finished with our monthly prayer meeting (via zoom) praying "Thy Kingdom Come" in our lives, in our church, in our community and in our world.

by Sue Naudi, Prayer Development Leader

## St Paul's Church, Egham Hythe



We have continued to be challenged and enabled since the last newsletter as God has shown his provision in the most unexpected ways. Like many churches we are seeing an increase in 'visitors' to our services online but have been encouraged that these are developing into relationships beyond the screen. We have established a good network to check on those who are not able to join us online to ensure they continue to be connected. The increased online presence through more content on social media has broadened our reach, and its intimacy, into our local community. We have continued to be involved as key stakeholders alongside our local councillors, Egham and Hythe Mutual Aid, Foodbank and others in the conversations with RBC's Task Group about what 'post-Covid' will look like in the Hythe.

The challenges that we, and I suggest everybody, have encountered have resulted in the broader church working much closer together. It has been great to see people step up in areas where it would be least expected. For TKC this year we challenged the congregation to send in recordings of The Lord's Prayer that we posted daily on Facebook and Twitter as well as YouTube. The response was overwhelming and produced some very personal content that involved the laity in leading prayer for us all. Here's the link for the last day's prayer that included everyone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDZwPnzU2cM>



On reflection, our biggest learning has been to never take our eyes off what matters. For all of the recording, the editing, the tech and the posting whenever we found ourselves focused on the 'production', and not on God, things never seemed to go quite right. However, when we stepped back and stopped worrying about what our content may look like we rediscovered those intimate moments of a thin place. That reminder that is God's mission that we join and that it is His holiness we seek has come through loud and clear over the recent weeks.

A lot of the above echoes the findings in George Fischer and Bob Jackson's excellent report 'Everybody Welcome Online' which is available for free download on the CPAS website and is highly commended; [https://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/understanding-christian-leadership/everyone-welcome-online/everybody-welcome-online/#.XutW7GpKg\\_U](https://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/understanding-christian-leadership/everyone-welcome-online/everybody-welcome-online/#.XutW7GpKg_U)

by Steve Baynes, Runnymede Deanery Representative  
(Photo Credits: Steve Baynes; Cartoon: Church Times)



## St Jude's Church, Englefield Green

During the nine days of "Thy Kingdom Come" the administrator of the St Jude's Facebook page enabled us to have daily access to the beautiful Novena of prayers for the season. Each prayer and its accompanying reflection were strangely apt for these present times. We know that some members participated at different times in the 24/7 prayer.

The Vicar's Jottings over the nine days focussed on the work of God's Holy Spirit and encouraged us day by day to pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our world. Some of us are already in the habit of praying for five friends or loved ones who do not yet know the Lord and "Thy Kingdom Come" has given new encouragement and impetus to that prayer.

Some of us used the Church of England's liturgy for morning and evening prayer especially prepared for this time between Ascension and Pentecost. Our Pentecost Service, which as usual now, was available to watch on You Tube from 9:30am on Pentecost Sunday, and was a celebration of the events of that first Pentecost set in the context of the climax of "Thy Kingdom Come". In recognition of our unity in prayer we invited Christians from other churches in the village to contribute to our worship. We also signposted people to the Cathedral celebration service on the Sunday evening.

Of especial relevance during the Novena was the reflection and prayer for Day 7:  
O God of longing hearts,  
you make a place of stone into a place of life,  
you make dry ground into pools of water.  
Show us what it means to live in your presence,  
to find strength in you, to create Zion's highway in our hearts  
every day, year and season of our lives,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
God Bless you all.

by Revd Judith Allford, Vicar

### **Holy Trinity Church, Lyne & Longcross**

We have been adapting to the "new normal" by creating a service sheet which is posted and e-mailed round the parish weekly, and we have had accompanying "Happy Moments" of pictures or thoughts to keep spirits up and keep us connected. We have also been trying to use technology to keep us connected in this "new normal" but we feel most connected by the fact that on a Sunday, we are all singing from the same hymn sheet as it were. We upload the service onto our website weekly, should anyone wish to see what we are doing on a Sunday.

Revd Laurence Gamlen has returned to work at St Peters on the Multi Faith Team, where he has been providing pastoral care and support in all areas of the NHS from staff to patients. He has also been doing some video and audio clips which form a press-and-pause for the staff to be able to engage in their own way and time, providing support, and has been well received as part of the work of the Multi Faith Team in this time of the pandemic.

by Becka Sherston, Administrator

### **All Saints' Church, New Haw**

We continue to stream our services online and are encouraged by the fact that we are praying together much more and feeling closer as a church family since we have been meeting via Zoom.

Attendance at our daily weekday morning prayer has quadrupled and we really value the opportunity to start the day in prayer and studying God's word together.

Our new Kids YouTube channel was launched a few weeks ago by our Children and Families worker, Bethany Wood. There is plenty of content there that you might like to share with your own church family, including a four-part series called '@ Home with Derek' (the dinosaur pictured here).



There are also kids' worship song videos and lots more! You can join in the fun here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXITC1FDwySrl-JleojsUbA>

Over the past few weeks, God has been speaking to us as a church about Jesus' words in John 14:11-12, 'Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.'

We are focussing on what it means to go out and make disciples and are currently questioning how this will shape our identity as a church going forward.

by Michelle Fenn, Administrator

### **Christ Church, Ottershaw**

We held a Compline service via Zoom for Ascension Day to launch "Thy Kingdom Come" week and encouraged everyone to pray for five people and to pray the Lord's Prayer at noon each day.

There were lots of resources available online and some members of our congregation signed up for podcasts, daily reflections and prayers as well as partaking in the various online services for Pentecost.

Our Messy Church family were encouraged to also get involved with online interactive prayer maps and fun activities to download such as a dove to make from a paper template.

by Chloe McCarthy, Administrator

### **St Mary's Church, Thorpe**

St Mary's has continued daily 10am worship, Compline once or twice a week and a Sung Eucharist and Family Service on Sundays, all live-streamed on Facebook and available through our website as well. The Sunday Eucharist has been upgraded by Zoom participation of our clergy team and occasional preacher, still featuring readings, prayers and music recorded by members of the congregation and accompanying materials available via mailer or website. Active participation in the main services via the Facebook comment section has been growing steadily which is encouraging with a view to post covid19 church life.

The church itself has been open for a couple of weeks now on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons for private prayer, fully compliant with all government regulations for such events. This opportunity to once again soak up the quiet and spiritual atmosphere has been well appreciated.

Our adventures on Zoom have diversified from the well received "Virtual Coffee Morning" on Thursdays to a similar set-up for "Café Church" after the 10am Sunday Eucharist, providing a platform for people to regularly "see" each other, while PCC and various teams involved in the running of St Mary's have been meeting via Workplace groups, a useful resource for ongoing discussions and sharing of rotas, quotes and other documents.



For "Thy Kingdom Come", Fr Damian turned our regular Saturday Noon Said Eucharist into a special event to reflect on the Holy Spirit and connect with this global time of prayer. Our current online Emmaus Course was timed for the "Holy Spirit" sessions to fall into the week before Pentecost and everybody was invited to participate in one of the sessions, either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, with interesting Bible-based accompanying reading material available from the website. Our Family Pack for Pentecost was a bumper version with a YouTube cartoon link ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqG\\_lvZhU-A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqG_lvZhU-A)), a Pentecost adaptation of Snakes & Ladders, lots of Holy Spirit related puzzles and activities like making a mobile, little windmills or a mini kite, instructions and props for an at-home re-enactment of the Pentecost events that would include the whole family, and of course prayer posters and colouring sheets...a huge pack of resources for all ages.

Another special event for us was Bishop Andrew's preaching via Zoom in our Trinity Sunday Eucharist. It was good to see him again and as always, his preaching was engaging and his words, both challenging and encouraging, can be summed up in his own phrase: "God disturbs the Comfortable but He comforts the Disturbed." Just what we need in these current times...

by Petra Hudson, Vicar & Wardens' Secretary  
(photo: screenshot from service live-stream)

## St Paul's Church, Addlestone

At St Paul's Addlestone, church members have made and delivered home baked and decorated cakes to isolated members of the congregation to remind them that they are cared for and not forgotten, loved by God and by His Church. 'Cakes with Crosses' have been very well received and a delicious comfort in trying times.



St Paul's also joined with thousands of other churches in 'Thy Kingdom Come', especially encouraging all church members to pray for five people who do not yet know the love of God in Christ for them.

St Paul's is still planning to run its summer food programme 'Loaves & Fishes', so that all children can enjoy a nutritious lunch throughout the summer holidays and a chance to have fun together, even if they cannot get away for a holiday.

by Revd Ben Beecroft, Vicar  
(photo credit: Revd Chris Beecroft, Associate Vicar)

## \*\*\*\*\*EAST TO WEST PRAYER SECTION\*\*\*\*\*

So, lock-down is being slowly eased. Garden centres have re-opened and police are having to put traffic calming measures in place so people can go to the McDonald's drive-thru! Exercising has extended beyond an hour and coastal towns are being inundated with people looking to visit the seaside. One report I read from North Devon likened the traffic on a Wednesday in May to the height of summer in August! It seems that for some, the change of government slogan from 'stay home' to 'stay alert' has been translated as, 'as long as I'm ok, I can do what I like'!

Can I encourage us all to swim against this tide and continue to think 'how does what I'm doing impact others?'

We continue to pray that you stay safe and don't forget, if there are things you'd like prayer for, you can email us at [prayer@easttwest.org.uk](mailto:prayer@easttwest.org.uk).

by Dan Beedell, Head of Income and Communication , east to west

And as always, east to west would appreciate our prayers as well.

Their specific requests for July are for:

- Wisdom for Heads of Schools and SLT with all the complicated decisions and problems to navigate to keep schools safe for pupils and staff and pioneer an excellent "new normal".

- Young people as they return to school. With so many complex changes, it is important that they receive good support to cope with their mental health following the lockdown, managing social distancing, catching up on work and maintaining mixed timetables in school and out as well as the enormous pressure of GCSEs for those in Year 10.
- Teaching Staff who will be under enormous stress trying to teach lessons in school for those returning and online for the rest. It is particularly difficult for staff with little ones under foot. Pray that for us all, we'd manage the new normal rhythm of in-school with online.
- All new Year 7 pupils who will be preparing to transition in very difficult circumstances.
- east to west to be able to arrange regular sessions with students and not just odd calls outside of school hours and to be fully integrated into the new normal as schools go forward.
- Dan himself and a small team who will be having 5-minute conversations with returning year 10 pupils in schools working with east to west, making a mental health assessment for each. This will help them judge the needs of each returning student.
- Dan to continue to improve his tech skills which he thinks are his "weakest suit".
- Dan to better understand how he can support his school link Lisa who is very, very busy.
- Dan to be able to keep up the rhythms of rest and spending time with God as everybody moves forward to being busier.

\*\*\*\*\***VACANCIES**\*\*\*\*\*

## Two Part-Time Posts at Christ Church, Virginia Water

Christ Church are looking to employ two team players with leadership skills, spiritual maturity and a burning passion for the following roles:

- **Youth Worker** to see the young people local to Virginia Water brought into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ and to nurture and prepare them for adulthood, as fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ
- **Student and Young Adult Worker** to mentor, coach and nurture their students and young adults

Part-time: 20 hours per week (negotiable); Salary: £9,619 to £14,108 based on experience; expenses paid. For a job specification and application form contact Annette Ross at [annette@cc-vw.org](mailto:annette@cc-vw.org) or visit their web site <http://www.cc-vw.org/>

**Closing date for applications 12noon Friday 19 July 2020!**

\*\*\*\*\***AND SOMETHING FOR A LAUGH**\*\*\*\*\*

Credits: Cartoon from Church Times  
We hope it will make you smile!



Your contributions to this publication are always very welcome via [runnymededeanery@gmail.com](mailto:runnymededeanery@gmail.com) – no later than the 10th of the month please.

**Please remember when giving contacts or photos that we publish on the Internet.**

Best wishes,  
The Runnymede Deanery Team